State Rail Plan Update

Public Meeting

June 2016

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
STATE RAIL PLAN UPDATE 2016

Agenda

- What is a State Rail Plan?
- Plan Goals
- Existing Rail System
- Next Steps

What's a State Rail Plan?

ORIGINS: FEDERAL LAW

- **Established in the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA)**
  - Enabled Eligibility for High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program (HSIPR) grants (not funded since 2011)

- **FAST Act of 2015 now requires approved update every 4 years**
  - Enables Eligibility to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure Program ~ $200M/ year (no funding in 2016)

What's a State Rail Plan?

PURPOSE: PLANNING POLICY

- Set the Commonwealth's policy involving freight and passenger rail, including commuter rail operations.

- Establish policies, priorities and strategies to enhance rail services in the state that provide benefits to the public.

What's a State Rail Plan?

PURPOSE: PLANNING COORDINATION

- To serve as the basis for public (federal and state) investment in rail within Massachusetts.

- Establish the means and mechanism to coordinate with
  - adjoining states;
  - private parties; and
  - the federal government in projects of regional and national significance.

What is a State Rail Plan?

STATE RAIL PLAN OUTLINE

- **Role of Rail in Statewide Transportation** – Policy / Goals
- **Existing Rail System** – Existing Services and Trends
- **Proposed Passenger Rail Improvements and Investments**
  Listing of all potential projects and studies
- **Proposed Freight Rail Improvements and Investments**
  Listing of all potential projects and studies
- **State's Rail Service and Investment Program**
  Prioritization of investments – 20 year vision and 4 year program

Rail Plan Goals

- **The Massachusetts State Rail Plan has Six Primary Goals**

- **The goals and objectives were developed in collaboration with stakeholders*, including:**
  - Citizen Input
  - State, Local, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)
  - Public Transit Agencies
  - Rail Industry Representatives

* Goals/objectives established as part of the 2010 Massachusetts State Rail Plan development process

Rail Plan Goals

1. PRESERVE & MAINTAIN

- Perform recommended maintenance and rehabilitation for rail equipment and infrastructure systems.
- Improve the physical plant and equipment of railroads in order to increase the use of rail service and reduce operating and maintenance expenses.
- Provide for passenger station facilities that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Preserve active and abandoned railroad corridors.

Rail Plan Goals

2. ECONOMIC & POPULATION GROWTH

- Enhance passenger rail facilities to accommodate job growth in the state.
- Develop state programs to encourage investment in the rail system and facilitate public-private partnerships. Leverage federal funding opportunities as available.
- Develop strategic rail and intermodal connections to improve freight rail.
- Develop and improve passenger rail infrastructure to accommodate strong Massachusetts population growth.

Rail Plan Goals

3. SAFETY & SECURITY

- Prioritize state of good repair projects that will result in improved safety.
- Ensure that security practices meet current Transportation Security Administration (TSA) standards.
- Eliminate or improve grade crossings locations that pose safety hazards to vehicles and pedestrians.
- Reduce illegal trespassing on railroad property

Rail Plan Goals

4. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Reduce emissions and enhance energy efficiency through expanded use of rail and use of efficient railroad equipment.

- Plan for and adapt to the impacts of climate change through sustainable design and an understanding of climate change impacts on infrastructure systems.

- Ensure that local and regional planning efforts link transportation and land use to reduce urban sprawl.

Rail Plan Goals

5. IMPROVE INTERMODAL CONNECTIVITY

- **Improve passenger access to commuter and intercity services through:**
  - Improved integration with other modes
  - Construction of new or improved stations
  - Improvements to service patterns and frequencies

- **Remove bottlenecks from commuter, intercity passenger, and freight rail networks.**

- **Increase rail share of intermodal freight traffic through improved highway-rail and water-rail intermodal connections.**

Rail Plan Goals

6. EXPANSION BASED ON DEMAND

- Improve the freight rail system to accommodate existing and future freight demand through modernization to meet national standards.

- Provide an efficient system of commuter, regional, intercity, and high-speed passenger rail lines

- Work cooperatively with Northeast Corridor partner states to enhance the benefits that the corridor and connecting services provides to communities and states.

Existing Rail System

MILESTONES SINCE THE 2010 PLAN

FREIGHT RAIL

- CSX Double Stack Initiative (Worcester to NY Border)
- Worcester Intermodal Yard
- Industrial Rail Access Program

PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEM

- CSX Transaction
- Worcester Line Service Frequency Program
- Fitchburg Line Improvements
- MBTA Fairmount Line Station Improvements
- Knowledge Corridor/Restore the Vermonter Program
- Seasonal Cape Flyer Service
- MBTA Commuter Rail Vehicle Equipment Improvement and Expansion

Existing Rail System

FREIGHT NETWORK

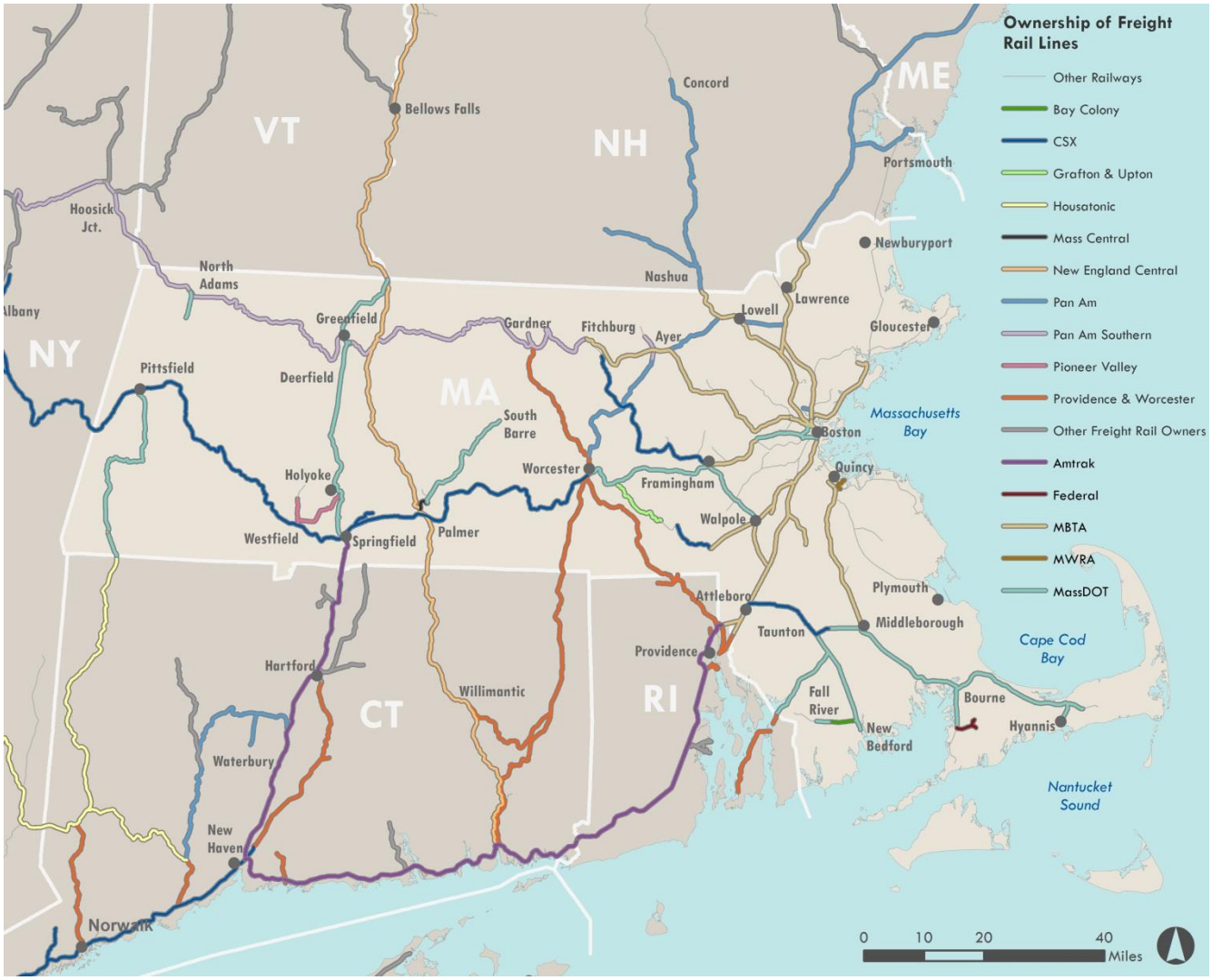
- Ownership
- Operations

PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEM

- Intercity Rail
- Commuter Rail

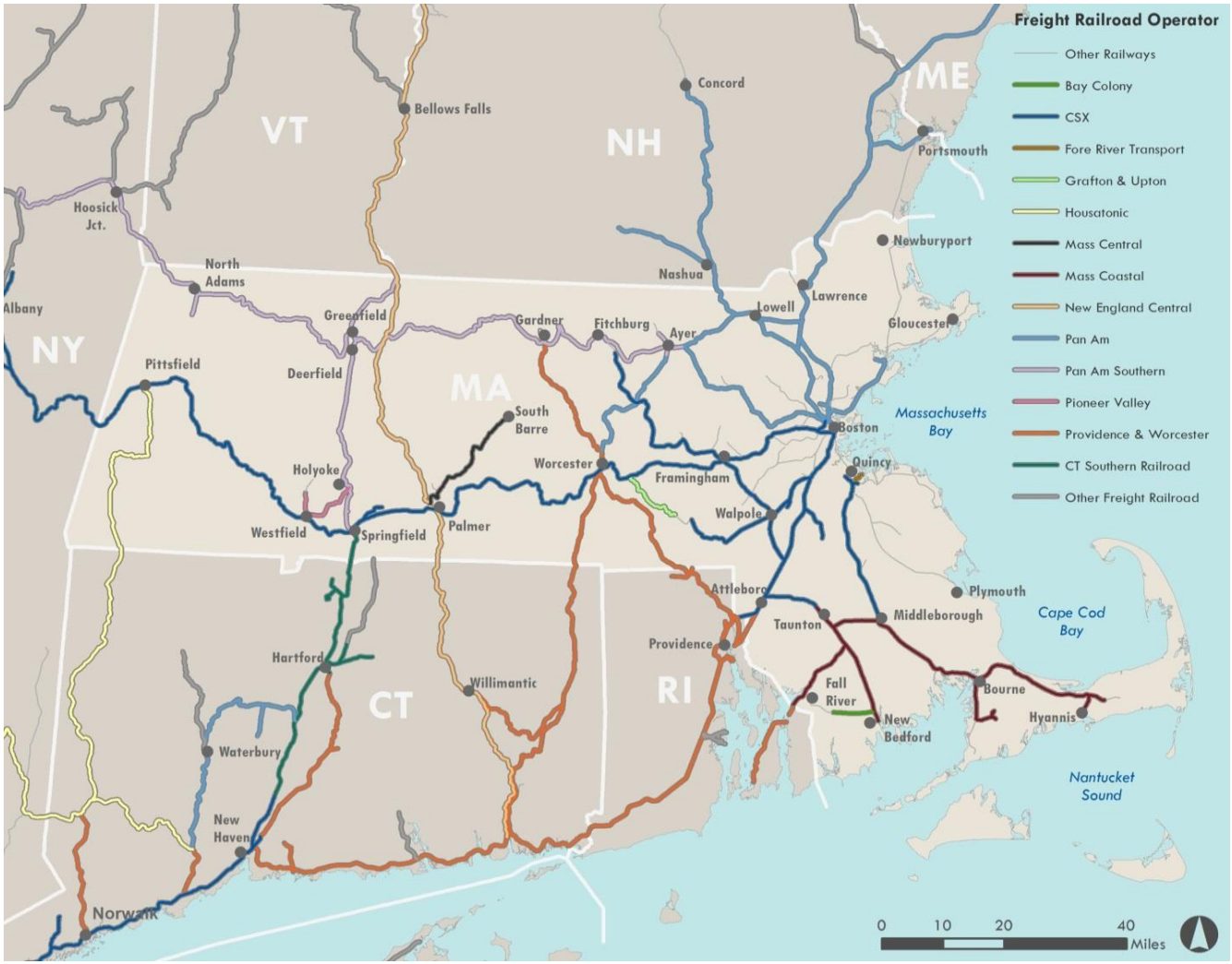
Existing Rail System

FREIGHT NETWORK: OWNERSHIP



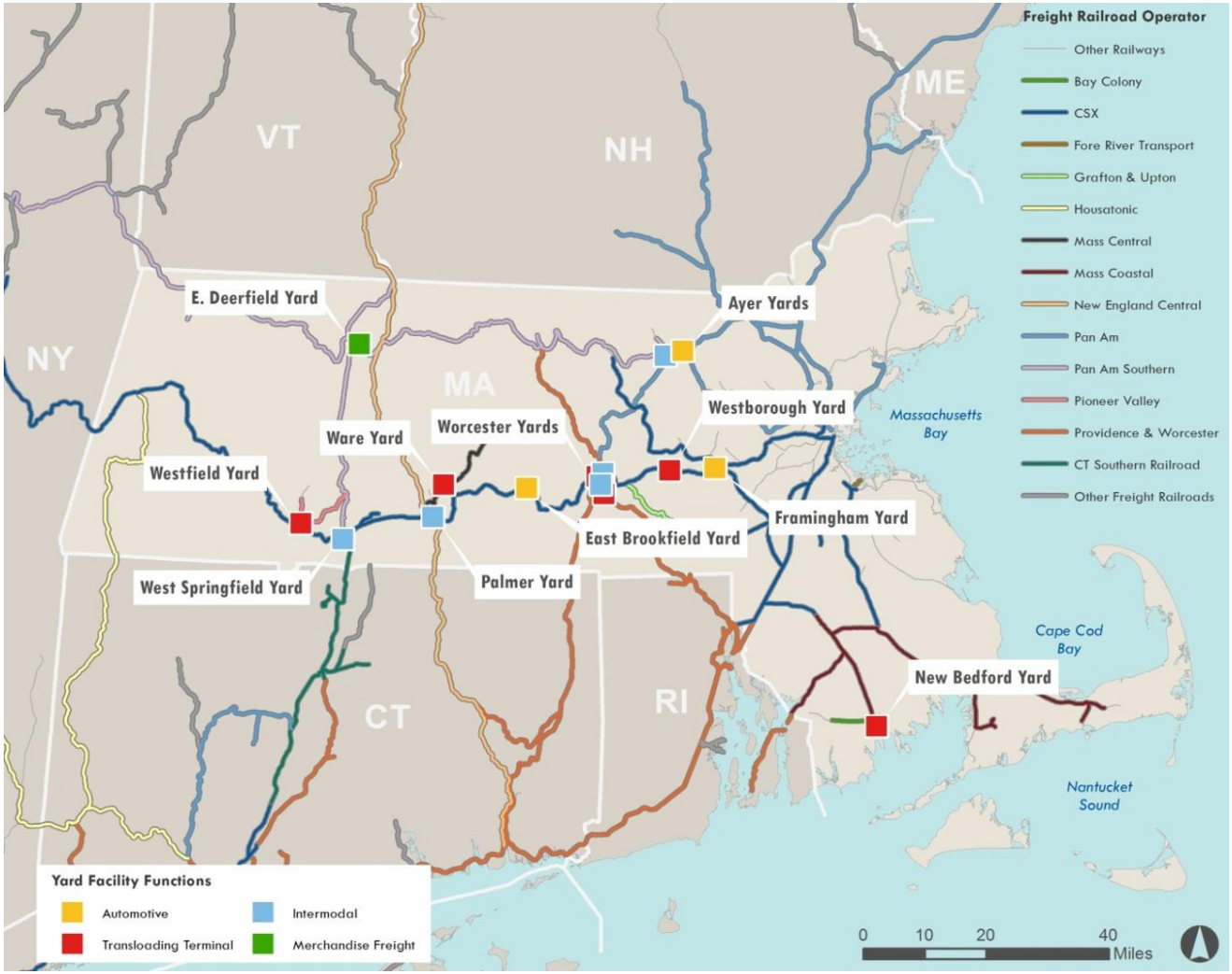
Existing Rail System

FREIGHT NETWORK: OPERATOR



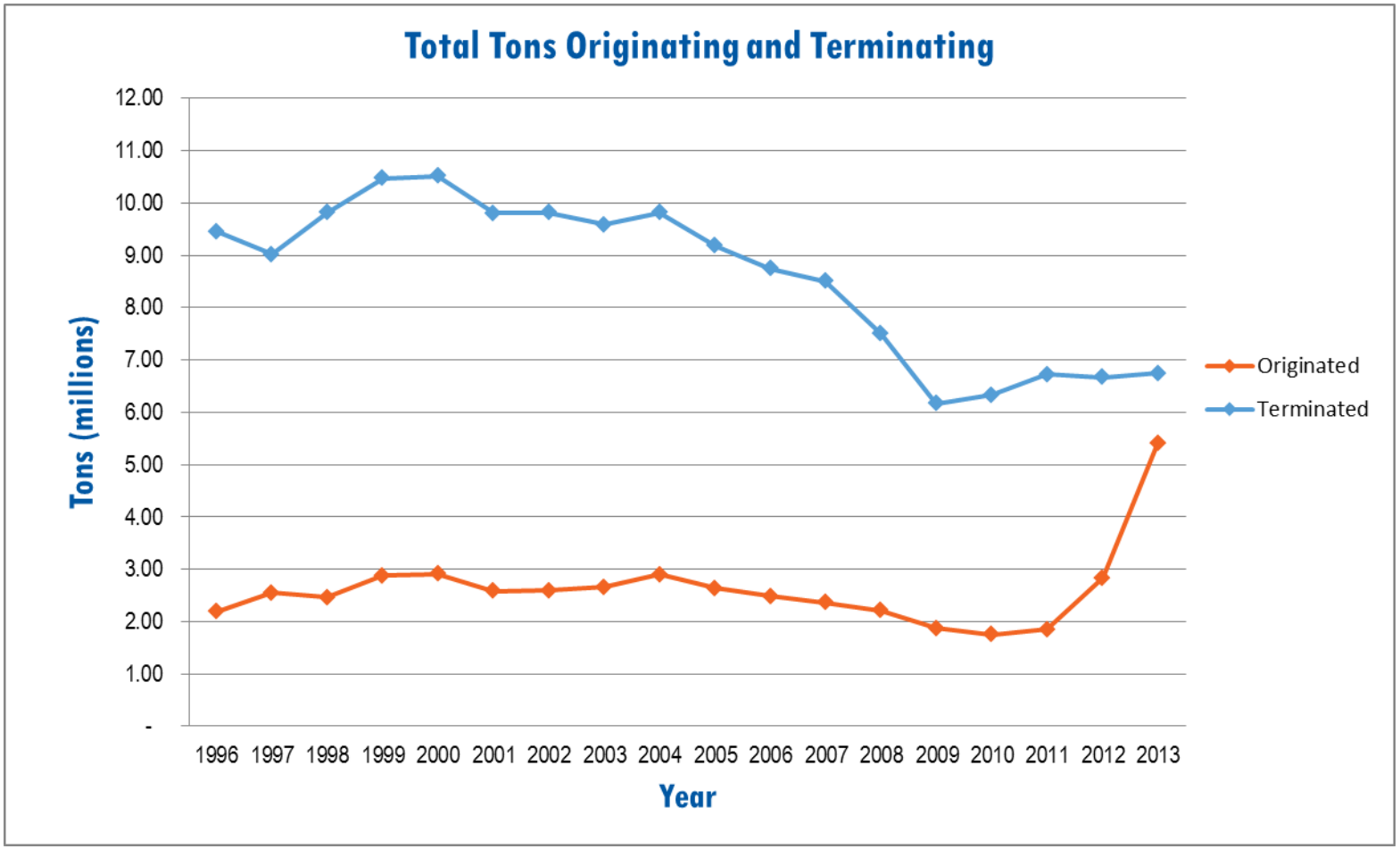
Existing Rail System

FREIGHT NETWORK: MAJOR FACILITIES



Existing Rail System

FREIGHT NETWORK: USAGE



Source: American Association of Railroads

Existing Rail System

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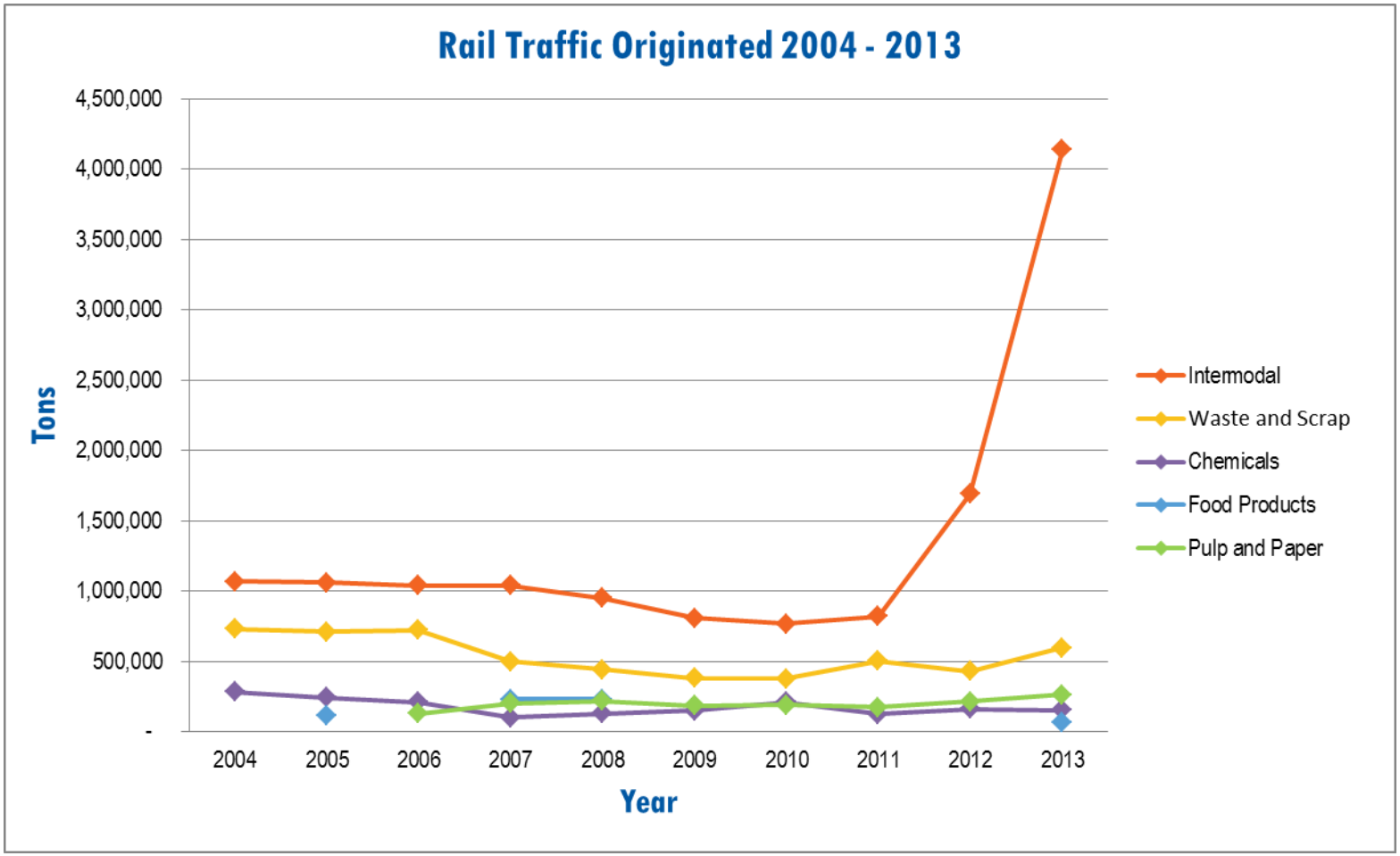

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Existing Rail System

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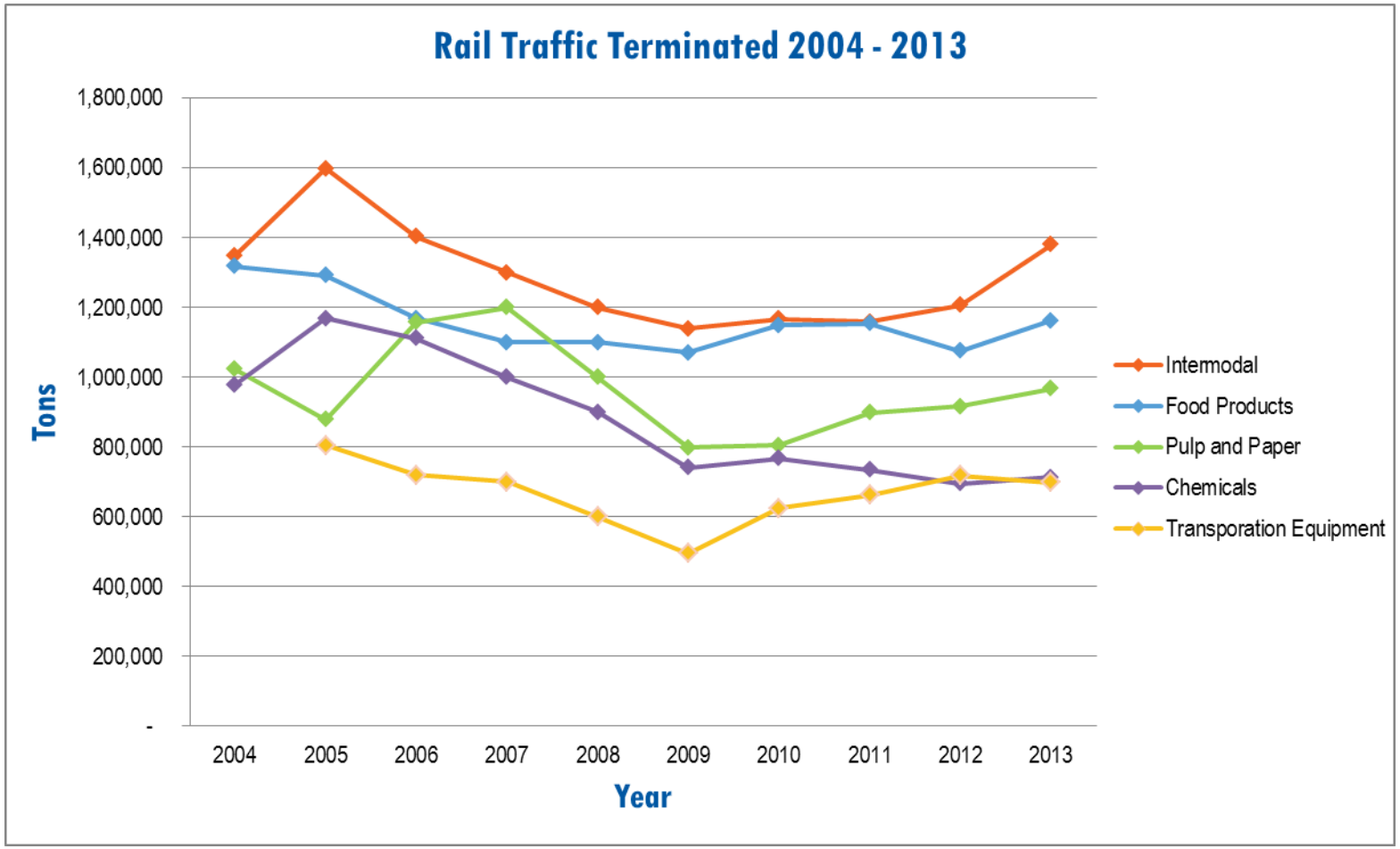

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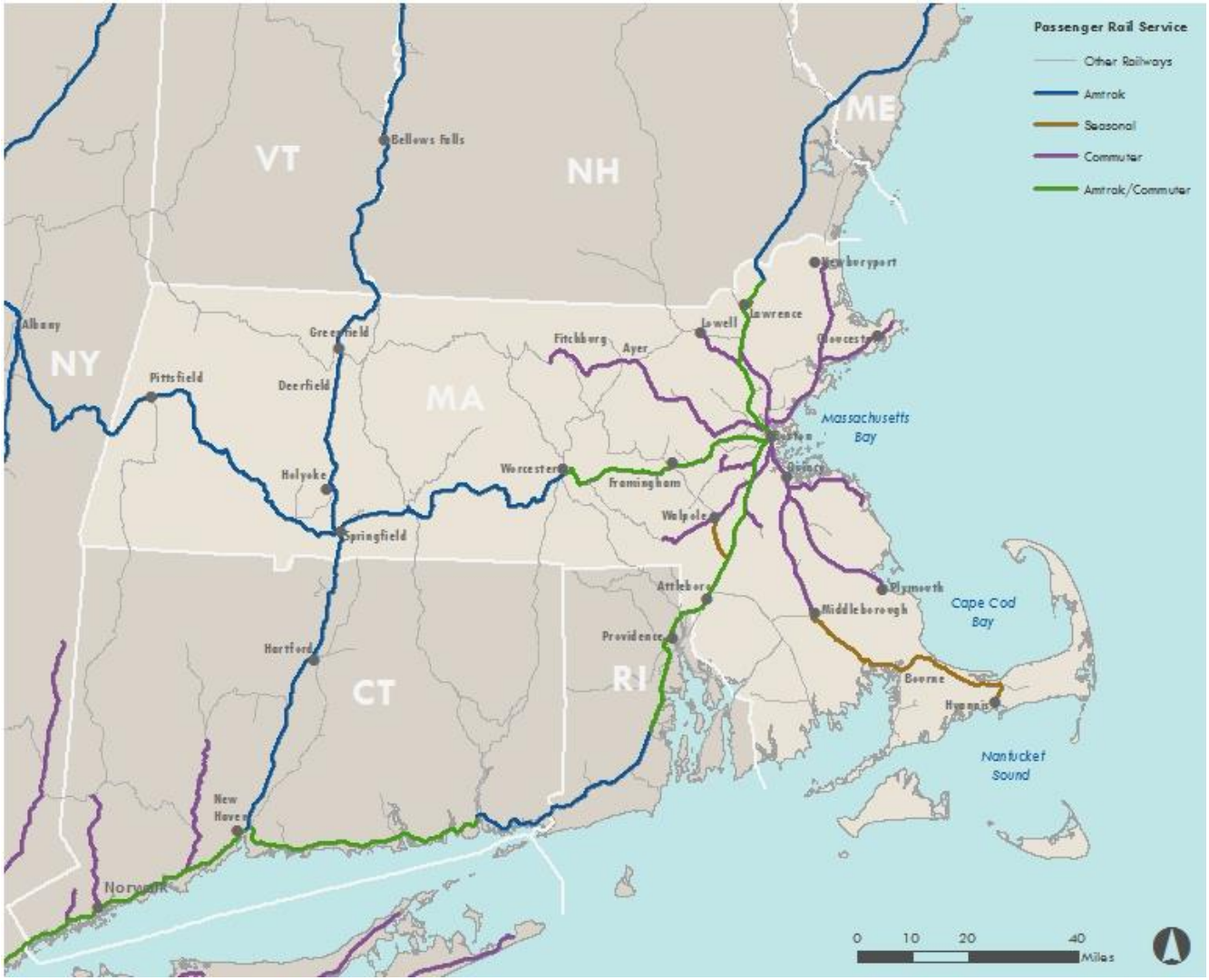
Existing Rail System

PASSENGER NETWORK

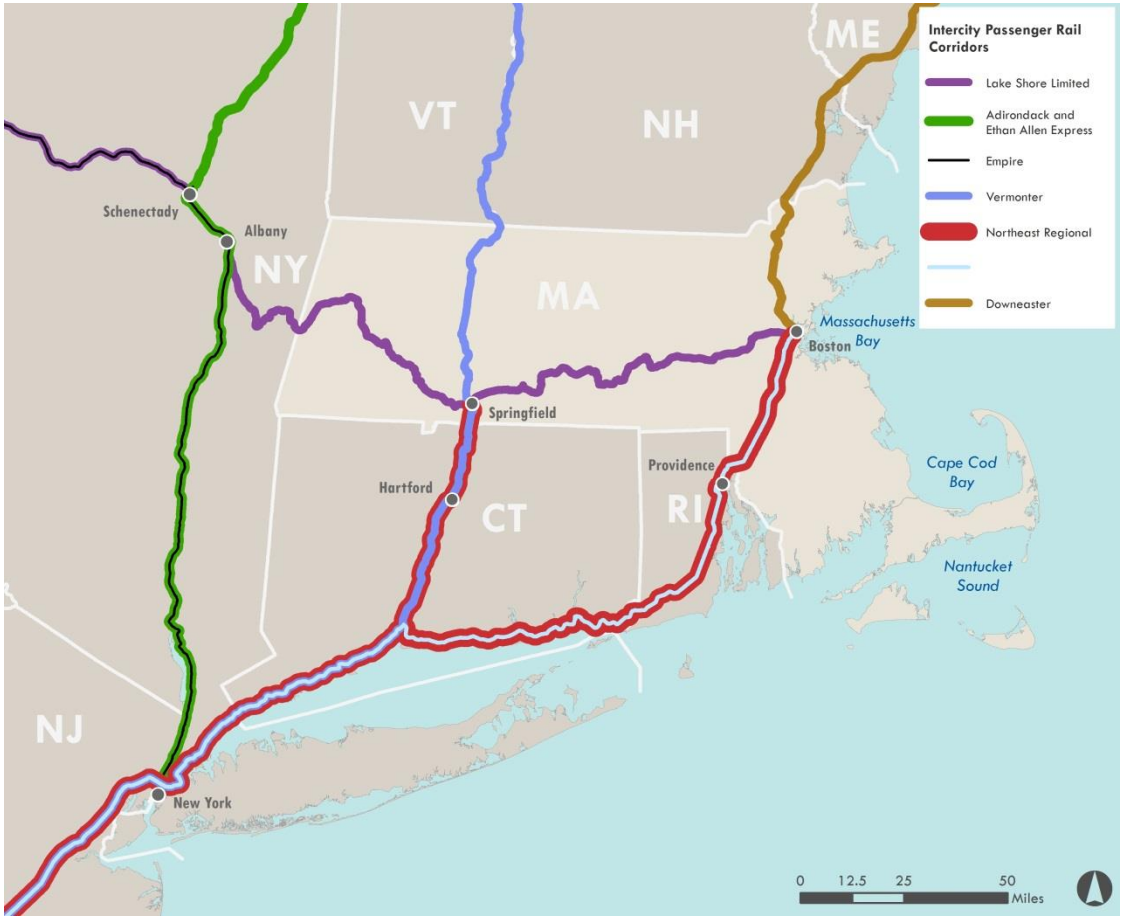


Existing Rail System

PASSENGER NETWORK: INTERCITY SYSTEM

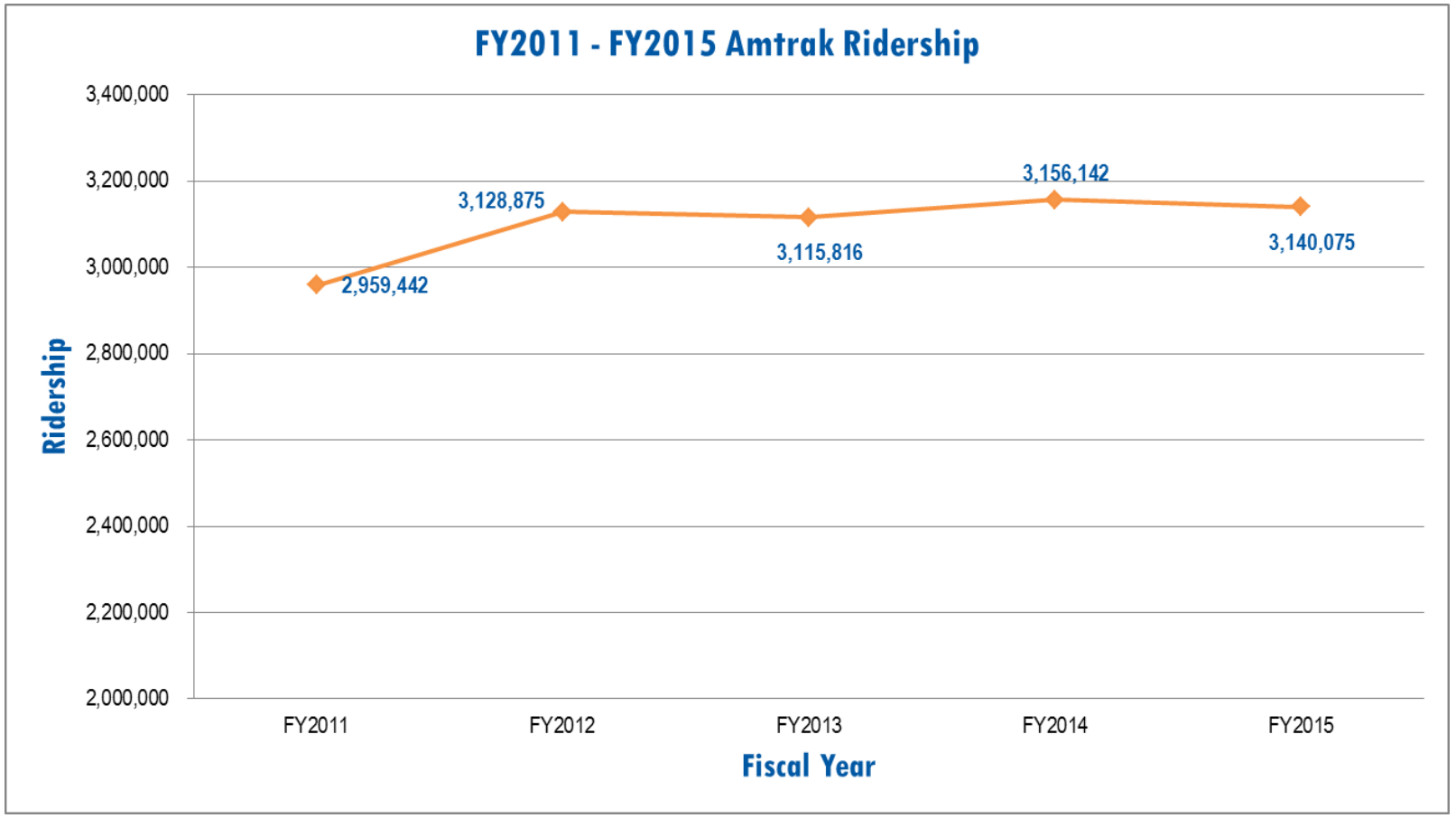
AMTRAK

- Lake Shore Limited
- Adirondack and Ethan Allen Express
- Empire Corridor
- Vermonter
- Northeast Regional
- Acela
- Downeaster



Existing Rail System

PASSENGER NETWORK: INTERCITY SYSTEM



Source: Amtrak State Fact Sheet

Existing Rail System

PASSENGER NETWORK: INTERCITY SYSTEM ANNUAL RIDERSHIP

Service	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Pittsfield	6,908	7,204	7,656	7,541	7,468
Greenfield*	-	-	-	-	5,316
Northampton*	-	-	-	-	11,923
Holyoke*	-	-	-	-	96
Amherst**	12,238	12,945	13,357	14,124	4,206
Springfield	157,724	143,605	141,947	135,243	124,580
Worcester	8,402	8,900	9,552	8,439	7,237
Framingham	2,205	2,320	2,674	2,154	1,963
Route 128 (Boston)	419,822	444,058	426,032	436,359	444,670
Haverhill	39,070	41,530	44,660	38,481	34,857
Woburn	16,762	18,860	19,573	22,754	16,901
Boston-North Station	456,198	473,912	475,447	433,060	358,286
Boston-Back Bay	479,951	528,040	540,770	566,892	578,403
Boston-South Station	1,360,162	1,447,501	1,434,148	1,491,095	1,544,169
Total	**2,959,442**	**3,128,875**	**3,115,816**	**3,156,142**	**3,140,075**

Source: Amtrak State Fact Sheet
*Greenfield, Northampton, and Holyoke Stations opened for service in FY 2015
**Amherst Station closed in FY 2015

Existing Rail System

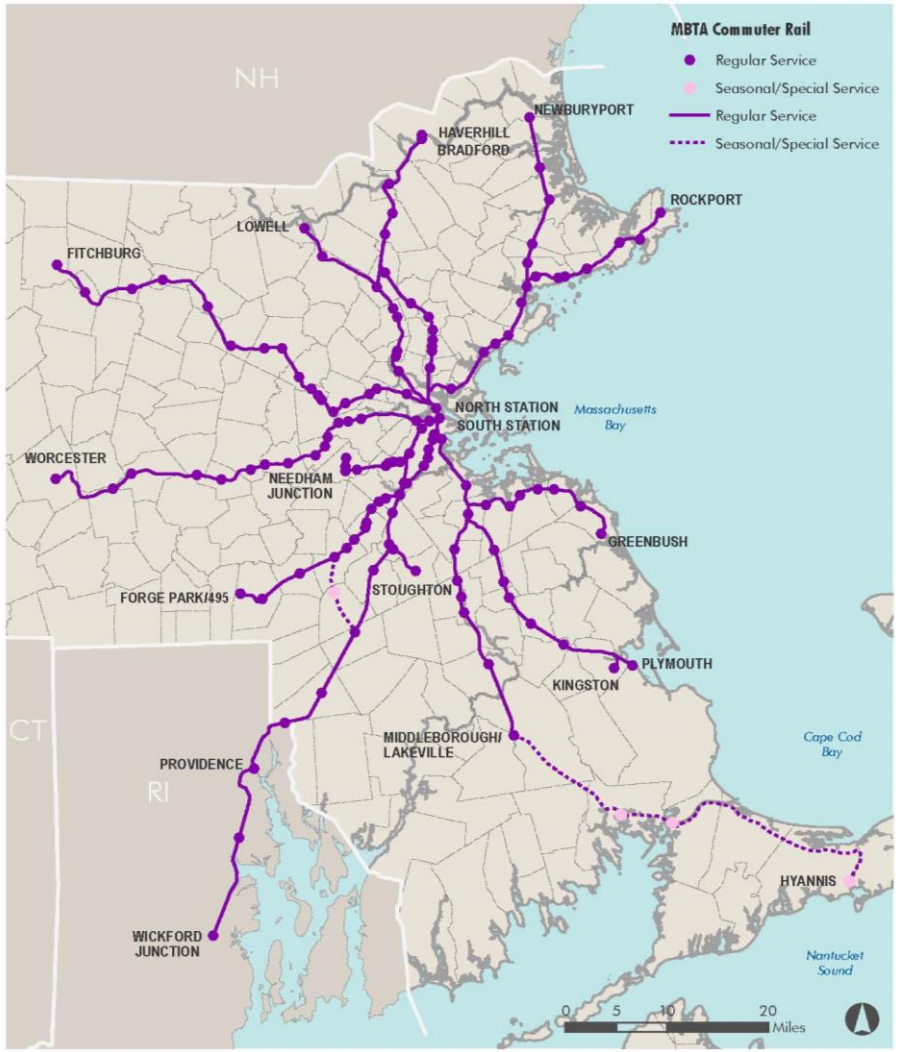
PASSENGER NETWORK: COMMUTER RAIL SYSTEM

MBTA

- **Northside Lines**
  - Fitchburg
  - Haverhill
  - Lowell
  - Newburyport/Rockport

- **Southside Lines**
  - Franklin
  - Greenbush
  - Kingston/Plymouth
  - Middleboro
  - Needham
  - Providence/Stoughton
  - Worcester

- **Seasonal and Event Trains**



Existing Rail System

PASSENGER NETWORK: COMMUTER RAIL SYSTEM

Estimated 121,700 trips per average weekday - 33,100,000 annual trips

FY2015 Annual Average

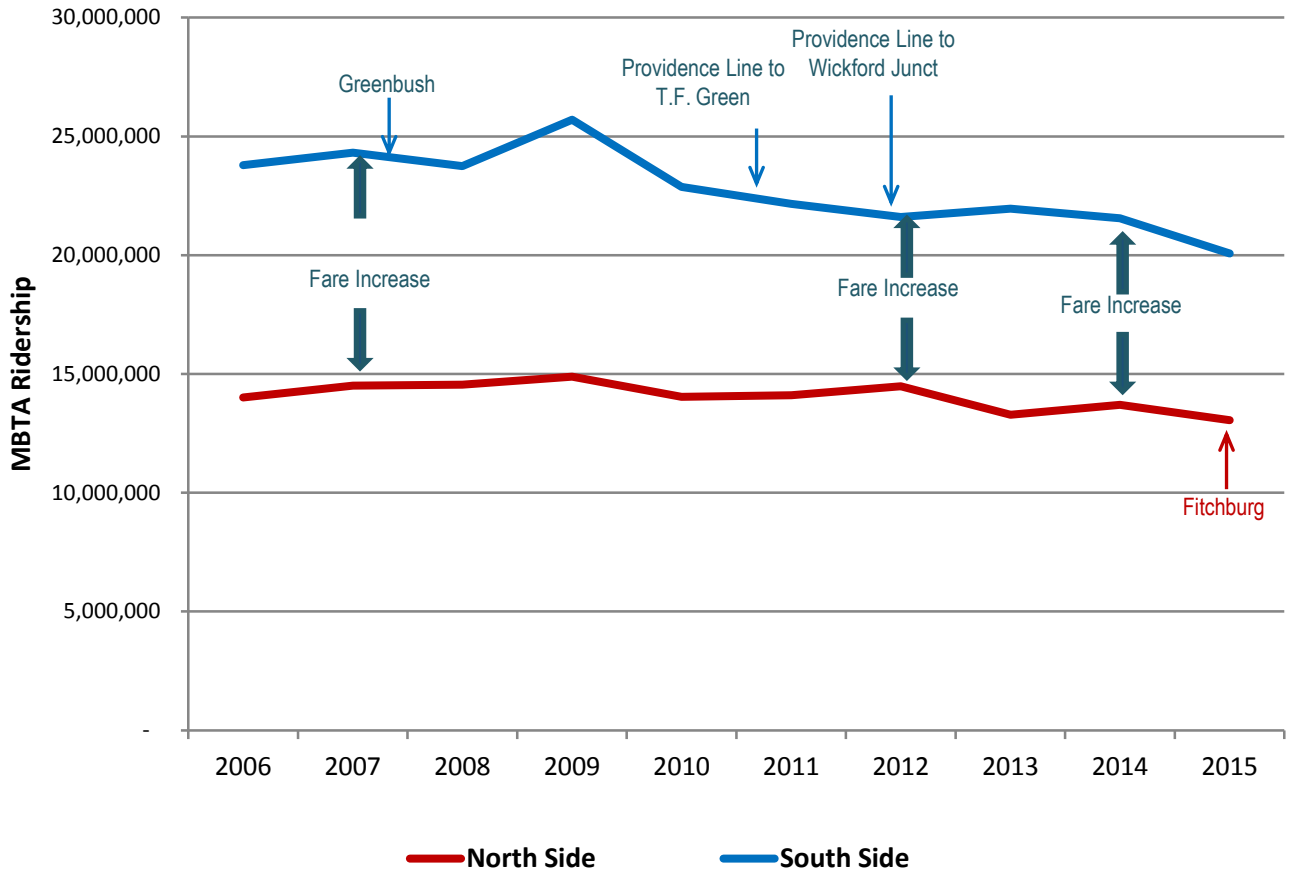
COMMUTER RAIL LINE	WEEKDAY RIDERSHIP	SATURDAY RIDERSHIP	SUNDAY RIDERSHIP
Providence	17,240	3,381	2,125
Framingham/Worcester	14,617	2,721	2,194
Franklin	11,719	1,503	1,139
Lowell	11,485	3,515	2,423
Newburyport	9,492	2,870	2,301
Fitchburg	9,325	1,139	955
Haverhill	9,314	2,456	2,270
Middleborough	6,630	1,143	1,125
Rockport	6,523	3,698	2,586
Kingston/Plymouth	6,324	150	110
Needham	6,228	86	N/A
Stoughton	6,056	N/A	N/A
Greenbush	5,383	156	95
Fairmount	1,326	85	75

*Ridership: Total number of boardings, both inbound and outbound

Source: MBTA

Existing Rail System

PASSENGER NETWORK: COMMUTER RAIL SYSTEM



Source: MBTA

Next Steps

- Spring/Summer 2016 – Review Potential Projects and Gather Public Input
- Late Summer/Early Fall 2016 – Identify List of Projects for 20 year vision and 4 year program
- Late Fall/Early Winter 2016/17 – State Rail Plan Update Draft for Review

Questions and Discussion

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